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IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims as currently presented and under consideration, are presented below for the Examiner's convenience and to comply with 37 CFR §1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. [Currently Amended] ~~An isolated~~ polynucleotide ~~derived~~ isolated from a fungal source, which polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding an endoglucanase EG VIII enzyme having endoglucanase activity.
2. [Previously Amended] An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a nucleic acid sequence which encodes or is complementary to a sequence which encodes an EGVIII polypeptide having at least 85% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence presented in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2);
 - (b) a nucleic acid sequence which encodes or is complementary to a sequence which encodes an EGVIII polypeptide having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence presented in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2);
 - (c) a nucleic acid sequence which encodes or is complementary to a sequence which encodes an EGVIII polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence presented in Figure 2;
 - (d) a nucleic acid sequence which encodes or is complementary to a sequence which encodes an EGVIII polypeptide having the amino acid sequence presented in Figure 2;
 - (e) a nucleic acid sequence which encodes or is complementary to a sequence which encodes an EGVIII polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence presented as SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (f) a nucleic acid sequence which encodes or is complementary to a sequence which encodes an EGVIII polypeptide having the amino acid sequence presented as SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (g) a nucleic acid sequence presented as SEQ ID NO:4, or the complement thereof; and

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- (h) a nucleic acid sequence that hybridizes, under high stringency conditions to the sequence presented as SEQ ID NO:4, or the complement or a fragment thereof, wherein said isolated polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide having the biological activity of an endoglucanase.
3. [Original] The isolated polynucleotide of Claim 2, wherein % identity is calculated using the CLUSTAL-W program in MacVector version 6.5, operated with default parameters, including an open gap penalty of 10.0, an extended gap penalty of 0.1, and a BLOSUM 30 similarity matrix.
 4. [Original] The isolated polynucleotide of Claim 2, wherein hybridization is conducted at 42°C in 50% formamide, 6X SSC, 5X Denhardt's solution, 0.5% SDS and 100 µg/ml denatured carrier DNA followed by washing two times in 2X SSPE and 0.5% SDS at room temperature and two additional times in 0.1 SSPE and 0.5% SDS at 42°C.
 5. [Original] The isolated polynucleotide of Claim 2, wherein said polynucleotide is an RNA molecule.
 6. [Currently Amended] The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 encoding an enzyme having endoglucanase activity, wherein the enzyme is ~~derived~~ isolated from a ~~Trichoderma~~ *Trichoderma* source.
 7. [Currently Amended] The isolated polynucleotide of Claim 6, wherein the enzyme is ~~derived~~ isolated from ~~Trichoderma reesei~~ *Trichoderma reesei*.
 8. [Currently Amended] An expression construct comprising including a polynucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence having endoglucanase activity and (i) having at least 85% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence presented in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2), or (ii) being capable of hybridizing to a probe ~~derived from~~ designed to hybridize with the nucleotide sequence disclosed in Figure 2 1 under conditions of intermediate to high stringency, or (iii) being complementary to a nucleotide sequence having at least 85% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence presented in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2).
 9. [Currently Amended] A vector comprising including the expression construct of

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Claim 8.

10. [Original] A vector comprising an isolated polynucleotide of Claim 2, operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.
11. [Original] A host cell transformed with the vector of Claim 9.
12. [Original] A host cell transformed with the vector of Claim 10.
13. [Original] The host cell of Claim 12, which is a prokaryotic cell.
14. [Original] The host cell of Claim 12, which is a eukaryotic cell.
15. [Original] A recombinant host cell comprising a polynucleotide of Claim 2.
16. [Original] The recombinant host cell of Claim 15, which is a prokaryotic cell.
17. [Original] The recombinant host cell of Claim 15, which is a eukaryotic cell.
18. [Cancelled]
19. [Original] A method of producing an enzyme having endoglucanase activity, comprising:
 - (a) stably transforming a host cell with an expression vector comprising a polynucleotide as defined in Claim 2;
 - (b) cultivating said transformed host cell under condition suitable for said host cell to produce said endoglucanase; and
 - (c) recovering said endoglucanase.
20. [Original] The method of Claim 19 wherein the host cell is a filamentous fungi or yeast cell.
21. [Cancelled]
22. [Original] A recombinant host cell comprising a deletion or insertion or other alteration in the *eg/8* gene which inactivates the gene and prevents EGVIII polypeptide production.
23. [Currently Amended] An antisense oligonucleotide complementary to a messenger RNA that encodes an EGVIII polypeptide having the sequence presented as SEQ ID NO:2, wherein upon exposure to a endoglucanase-producing host cell, said oligonucleotide ~~decreases or~~ inhibits the production of endoglucanase by said host cell.
24. [Original] The antisense oligonucleotide of Claim 23, wherein the host cell is a filamentous fungi.

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25. [Cancelled]

26. [Currently Amended] A method of expressing a heterologous polypeptide having endoglucanase activity in an *Aspergillus Aspergillus* species, comprising:

- (a) Providing a host *Aspergillus Aspergillus* with an expression vector comprising a polynucleotide encoding a signal sequence linked to a polynucleotide encoding a heterologous endoglucanase EG VIII, thereby encoding a chimeric polypeptide;
- (b) Cultivating said host *Aspergillus Aspergillus* under conditions suitable for said *Aspergillus Aspergillus* to produce said chimeric polypeptide, wherein said chimeric polypeptide is produced.

27 – 36. [Cancelled]